

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the section that appears as the first paragraph after the title on page 1 of the specification and is prior to the "Background of the Invention," with the following amended section:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of application Ser. No. 09/065,492, filed April 24, 1998, which is a continuation in part of application Ser. No. 08/765,623, filed December 27, 1996, which is the U.S. National Phase of application PCT/EP95/02531 PCT/EP95/02513, filed June 28, 1995, designating the U.S., the text of which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 10-14, of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

According to ~~FR-A-0 649 055~~ FR 849055, the egg-shells are sterilized with 20% ethylene oxide at 50°C under a pressure of 5 atmospheres. This method enables a germ reduction rather than a complete sterilization which would be necessary to provide a product in conformity with the requirements of a human health product due to the presence of pathogenic bacteria, spores, etc. in the natural product egg shell.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 23, and ending on page 3, line 2, of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In ~~EP 0 347 859 A2~~ EP 0 347 899 A2, a sterilization method for egg-shells is described. The sterilization method reported is unsuitable for eliminating the possible presence of pathogenic bacteria, spores, fungi and protozoans. The sterilization of egg-shell powder with dry air at 120°C for about 1 hour is not suitable for effecting a safe reduction of pathogenic germs and to counteract a loss in active ingredients. An increase in temperature, especially in the range of $\geq 150^{\circ}\text{C}$, for more than 1 hour destroys the biological carriers with membrane transit ability for an effective transport of minerals in compact and spongy substances. Following this thermal exposure, the egg-shell powder exhibits the biological effects of calcium carbonate with respect to the ^{45}Ca incorporation rate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 3, of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Various formulations comprising egg-shell powder have been examined in ~~US 3 558 711~~ US 3 558 771, especially in rats with topical application on open wounds. An improved wound healing has been achieved as compared to the control animals. In this document, no suitable sterilization method is reported which would not affect the therapeutic effectiveness of the egg-shells. An oral application of egg-shell powder is not suggested in this patent.